

Remarks

Claims 1, 10-11, 15, 18 and 20 have been amended. The Abstract of the invention has also been amended.

The Examiner has stated that the replacement Abstract in the Amendment filed on December 31, 2007 has not been accepted due to applicant having changed the word “port” to --connection unit--. Applicant has submitted a replacement Abstract hereinabove which tracks the amendments to the claims herein and which retains the word “port”. Applicant respectfully submits that the new Abstract is acceptable and requests that it be entered.

The Examiner has rejected applicant’s claims 1, 10-11, 15 and 18-21 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. In particular, the Examiner has objected to applicant having changed the word “port” to --connection unit-- in applicant’s claims.

In order to avoid this rejection, applicant has amended applicant’s claims to replace the tem “connection unit” with the original term --port--. Applicant’s amended claims are thus now believed to conform to the language used in the specification and thus comply with the written description provisions of 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

The Examiner has rejected applicant’s claims 1, 10-11, 15 and 18-21 under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Seong patent (US 6,785,720) in view of the Johnson, et al. patent (5,584,039). With respect to applicant’s claims, as amended, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicant’s undersigned attorney would like to thank the Examiner for the courtesies extended to applicant’s undersigned attorney in the telephone interview conducted on April 16,

2008. During the interview, there was extensive discussion of the IEEE 1394-1995 standard and the IEC 61833 specification as applied to the types of transmission systems under consideration in the subject application. While no agreement was reached with respect to allowable claims, the discussion was quite useful in better defining the patentability issues related to the claims of the application and in helping applicant to consider further amendments of the claims.

In that vein, applicant's claims have been amended to better define applicant's invention over the cited art. More particularly, claim 1 recites a communication control apparatus comprising: a first port which connects to a first segment of a network; a second port which connects to a second segment of the network; a CIP header detecting unit configured to detect whether an isochronous packet received by said first port includes a CIP (common isochronous packet) header conforming to IEC 61883 standard; and a control unit configured to determine, using the CIP header, whether to disable relaying the isochronous packet including the CIP header to said second port, wherein said control unit controls to provide the isochronous packet including the CIP header to said second port, if the CIP header includes a node ID of a permission node, and wherein said control unit controls to provide another isochronous packet including dummy data or null data to said second port in lieu of the isochronous packet including the CIP header, if the CIP header includes a node ID of a prohibited node. Claim 11 has been similarly amended.

In applicants amended claims, the control unit controls to provide the isochronous packet including the CIP header to the second port, if the CIP header includes a node ID of a permission node. On the other hand, the control unit controls to provide another isochronous packet including dummy data or null data to said second port in lieu of the isochronous packet including the CIP header, if the CIP header includes a node ID of a prohibited node.

Such a construction is not taught or suggested by the cited art of record. The Examiner has argued as follows with respect to the Seong patent: “Seong shows . . . a control unit configured to determine, using a CIP header, whether to disable relaying the isochronous packet received by said first connection unit to said second connection unit (column 5, lines 47-67: OPCR to control channel: Fig. 6-7; column 4, line 65-column 5, line 6, power on/off).” It is noted that lines 47-57 of column 5 of the Seong patent describe the operation of the Seong system in selecting a server in which a client device of the system includes a web browser and an identification information storing unit. As described in column 5, lines 17-46, server devices are registered in the identification information storing unit in a look-up table which stores ID information of the devices (i.e., based on the IEEE 1394 standard, each device has its own unique ID information , for example GUI (globally unique identification) contained in a ROM in the device).

When it is desired to be connected to a server device, the ID information of the device is then compared with the information in the look-up table. If there is no match, the process is terminated. However, if there is a match, i.e., the selected server device has been registered, the process described in above-mentioned lines 47-57 of column 5 of the Seong patent is followed. Specifically, in that case, the OPCR register of the registered device is checked to see whether the A/NA information of the server indicates that the server outputs data to the IEEE 1394 bus. If the OPCR of the server indicates that the server is active, the channel number of the server is read out and is recorded in the IPCR, whereby connection to the server device is performed.

Thus, in this case, the Seong patent discloses connection to a server device using the IEEE 1394 standard and the IEC 61833 specification (i.e., OPCR and IPCR) wherein the connection is based on the ID information of the server device (ID information contained in the

ROM of the server device) and whether the OPCR indicates the server outputs data to the IEEE 1394 bus. This differs from applicant's claimed invention in which relaying of a packet is based on the CIP header and, in particular, on whether the CIP header includes a node ID of a permission node or a node ID of a prohibited node.

Moreover, column 4, line 65-column 5, line 6 of the Seong patent merely describe the power on/off procedure to the STB. Specifically, if connection to the STB has been made and power is off, the STB will not provide an output signal of a selected channel. On the other hand, if the power is the turned on, the STB will provide an output signal of the channel. However, this procedure merely involves turning the power on and off to the STB and is not a teaching or suggestion that relaying of a packet be based on the CIP header and, in particular, on whether the CIP header includes a node ID of a permission node or a node ID of a prohibited node.

The Examiner has also recognized that the "Seong does not explicitly show wherein said control unit controls to provide another isochronous packet including dummy data or null." Nonetheless, the Examiner cites the Johnson, et al. patent and argues that the Johnson, et al. patent would suggest use of this feature in the system of the Seong patent. Applicant disagrees.

In the Seong patent, as discussed above, if a server device is not active, the attempt to connect to the server device is eventually terminated (column 5, lines 65-66). Based on this teaching and due to the nature of the system of the Seong patent (i.e., connection of digital devices, e.g. DTV, DVCR, DVDP and STB, in a home network), there would appear to be no reason in the system of the Seong patent to use dummy or null data.

The Examiner's attempt to combine the Johnson, et al. patent, with the Seong patent is thus believed motivated solely by the Examiner's attempt to meet the terms of applicant's claims

rather than on what the references would reasonably teach or suggest to one of skill in the art. The combination of these patents is thus believed to be without merit and should be withdrawn.

For all the above reasons, applicant submits that amended claims 1 and 11, and their respective dependent claims, patentably distinguish over the Seong and Johnson, et al. patents.

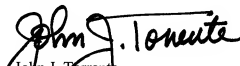
In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Applicant further notes that applicant has filed concurrently herewith a Request for Telephone Interview asking the Examiner to telephone applicant's undersigned attorney to arrange for a telephone interview in the event the Examiner is not disposed to allow the application.

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Respectfully submitted,

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